

REMARKS

Applicant has now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of November 12, 2003. All of the objections and/or rejections are traversed. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Regarding the Drawings

Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary lists the Drawings filed on "27 April 2000" as objected to by the Examiner. In the body of the application, the Examiner continues to object to the "handwritten" drawings. However, Replacement Drawing Sheets (not hand-drawn) were submitted along with the previously filed Amendment A on September 2, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgement of the receipt and acceptability of these drawings.

Summary of the Office Action

Claim 7 has been allowed.

Claims 1-6 and 8-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,914,819, hereinafter Kondo) in view of Rumley (U.S. Patent No. 4,961,117).

Comments/Arguments

Applicant appreciates and thanks the Examiner for recognizing the allowability of claim 7, and indicating the same. As there are no outstanding objections and/or rejections related to this claim, no further comment thereon is deemed necessary. However, the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-18 is hereby traversed.

Significantly, neither Kondo nor Rumley expressly teach or fairly suggest the use of an array lens such as those claimed in independent claims 1, 8, 13 and 16. For example, claim 1 calls for an "array lens including a plurality of neighboring lens elements disposed across the array lens in a first direction substantially perpendicular to a second direction which the array lens faces." Claim 8 recites "an array lens, facing in a direction of the light source, which focuses emitted light from the light source onto a desired receptor, said array lens including a plurality of neighboring lens elements disposed with respect to one another transverse to the

direction in which the array lens faces.” Claim 13 calls for an “array lens including a plurality of neighboring lens elements disposed with respect to one another transverse to a direction in which the array lens faces.” Finally, claim 16 recites “an array lens ... including a plurality of neighboring lens elements disposed across the array lens in a first direction substantially perpendicular to a second direction which the array lens faces.”

Contrary to the claims, Rumley only teaches a solitary lens **32**. See, e.g., FIGURE 2 of Rumley. Rumley makes no mention of a plurality of lens elements or any array type lens of the kind claimed. While Kondo discloses a plurality of lens elements, **G1-G8**, notably, these lens elements are all in-line with one another with respect to the direction they face. That is to say, they are all disposed on the same x-axis, i.e., along a line substantially parallel to a direction in which the group of lenses are facing. See, e.g., FIGURES 8, 18 and 19 of Kondo. This is directly contrary to what is recited for the arrangement of the claimed array lens. As claimed, the neighboring lens elements of the array lens are disposed with respect to one another transverse or substantially perpendicular to the direction in which the array lens is facing. See, e.g., FIGURE 2 of the present application.

Neither Kondo nor Rumley teach the claimed array lens. Accordingly, the currently amended independent claims 1, 8, 13 and 16 define patentably over the references, along with claims 2-6, 9-12, 14, 15, 17 and 18 that depend respectively therefrom.



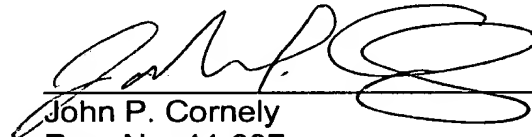
CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all the claims remaining in the application (i.e., claims 1-18) are now in condition for allowance.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call the below signed at the telephone number listed.

Respectfully submitted,

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